

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1887.

The Public Schools.

The closing exercises of the Public Schools held on Friday of last week, were highly creditable to scholars, teachers, trustees, and the public generally.

The work of the Center Primary School was exhibited in the Lecture Room in the afternoon and proved extremely interesting to the few who were able to find standing room in the building. Large numbers were turned away for lack of accommodation.

The enthusiasm of the evening was unprecedented. Not even the ample room of the Old First Church could furnish seats to those who were eager to see and hear the Graduating Exercises of the members of the High School. The class was large—thirteen in all—and the essays were uniformly good. Several were of marked merit. To the Enterprize Society the audience were indebted for music, of which, as a native product, Bloomfield may well be proud.

The interest manifested in these exercises would seem to indicate that the High School has at last won its proper place in the public esteem. It may well be so. Essays of the high merit there shown disclose the thorough, patient and faithful work accomplished by the teachers. Such results are not obtained by chance. They are the result of hard, thoughtful and skillful labor. To Mr. Dunbar and his assistants of right belongs the praise for what has been accomplished in the thorough grading, and the even and satisfactory work of the school.

There is no longer a question of the value of a High School. Like the athletic sports of a college, in which but a few actively engage, yet which serve as a stimulus to all in the pursuit of physical culture, the High School with its public exercises exhibits to the scholars the true estimate placed upon mental training, by the community, and arouses their ambition to excel in the same arena. The Olympic games in Greece served to develop the manly qualities of all her sons. To receive a laurel wreath, amidst the applause of the people, was more highly esteemed than mints of money or years of luxurious ease.

Education will be sought after, when it is highly valued and generously applauded by the community.

The present seems to mark an epoch of new interest in educational affairs. Behind the schools with their advanced training stands the "plain people," as ex-President Lincoln once called them, whose sons and whose daughters enjoy their privileges. They have a worthy pride in their success.

The Public Schools are to-day the one grand leveler of distinctions, the bulwark which is resisting the ocean of discontent among the laborers, and the waters of hollow and empty pride among the successful capitalists of the community. In them the laborer learns that in honest merit he may not be inferior to his richer neighbors, while these are made often to feel that only circumstances make the distinctions of life. Both are the better for that teaching, for intelligence will see that jealousy and pride are the insuperable obstacles to the settlement of the conflicting claims of capital and labor.

These exhibitions likewise make evident the fact that the moral influence of the public schools is not unhealthy. The tone of the essays, the general appearance and manners of scholars and teachers indicate that complaints as to their evil effect upon the characters of children well-trained at home, are unfounded. In them the rude, the careless and the unclean, learn instinctively lessons of neatness and good manners, which soon bring them to the level of the great majority.

It is a great pity that teaching of such value should be lightly spoken of. The Public Schools should be an object of honest pride to this village—to be spoken about, commended to strangers, visited and aided with good counsel, and a wise and liberal expenditure of money.

Even parents so seldom visit the schools except at the closing exercises, as to leave the impression in teachers' minds, that they are instructing orphan children. Meetings for the voting of money, and the reading of reports are but slightly attended. Discussion is out of the question, for there are no ideas to suggest or combat, and the trustees are left to grope in the dark in satisfying the needs of the community.

A kind word, a gift of books, or pictures for the walls, the frequent presence of interested listeners in the schools, will add much to the effectiveness of their work. They are already doing well but with wise help may do better.

This week THE CITIZEN gives some five columns of interesting matter relating to the Bloomfield High School, all of which we think will be read with interest.

THE HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT.

Exercises which Prove the Value of Bloomfield's Public Schools.

The seating capacity of the largest church in Bloomfield—the First Presbyterian—was insufficient to accommodate the throng that assembled to witness the High School graduating exercises held on Friday evening, June 24th.

Long before the hour of commencing, the aisles and unreserved parts of the church were filled with people. It was with difficulty that a passage was cleared for the scholars to march through to the seats assigned them.

Extensive and elaborate preparation had been made in honor of the occasion. A profusion of beautiful flowers, ferns and rare plants surrounded the platform. A beautiful floral design covered the balustrade fronting the organ. On it was worked in white letters the motto of the Class of '87:

MALIM ESSE QUAM VIDERI.

The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. J. A. Munroe, of the Park M. E. church.

The graduates assigned to read their essays, six young ladies, were announced in turn by Mr. J. B. Dunbar, Principal of the High School. The graduating class numbered thirteen, all of whom had prepared essays, as follows:

LADIES WILL NOTE as being of marked interest, the following facts concerning the above announcement:

1st. That we are not going to wait until our customers have left for the seaside or mountains before offering our clearing bargains.

2d. At this time our lines of desirable goods are not depleted but are in excellent form, showing just the variety of seasonable fabrics every one desires.

3d. We add from clearing sales of largest jobbing houses, 200 pieces of NEW GOODS, purchased since the 15th inst., that will surprise every one by their excellence and cheapness.

Also and especially, we shall include in the clearing sale, SUMMER DRESS FABRICS, our splendid lines of popular

Parasols and Sun Umbrellas, AND SILK AND LINEN HOSIERY, ALL GAUZE MEXICO UNDERWEAR, ALL MUSLIN UNDERWEAR, and all CURTAINS, PORTIERS, DRAPERIES, Etc.

At the conclusion of the essays, Miss Bessie P. Sulphren delivered the Valedictory, which appears below.

The principal address to the graduates was made by County Superintendent C. M. Davis, and will be found in full on the fourth page.

One of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Edmund A. Smith, congratulated the young ladies in a brief speech, and presented diplomas to each, after which the benediction was pronounced and the large audience dispersed.

After the exercises, a reception was tendered the graduates by the class that is to graduate the next year. It was held in the parlor of the church, and passed off very pleasantly.

All in all, this commencement was a most satisfactory affair. It demonstrated the interest of the people in higher education, and proved that in the dissemination of profound knowledge, and a profitable application of its uses and advantages, the Grammar and High School of Bloomfield has been making real progress.

The Valedictory.

As one who in climbing a mountain, having attained some hard-won height, pauses, before attempting a greater, to go back over the path already trod, so we, having reached this point upon the "steps of knowledge," turn, ere we begin a more difficult ascent, to glance for a moment over our school life.

To those who have assisted us over the rocks and guided our feet through the brambles, we desire to render thanks.

To the Trustees of our School, we, the Class of '87, desire to express our appreciation of their wise and generous administration in the selection of instructors and in their manifold endeavors to widen our opportunities and facilitate our efforts in our various studies.

To you, our Teachers, we find it difficult to express our gratitude for the patience, sympathy and zeal with which you have directed our steps. We already begin to appreciate how, in future years, we shall recall, with increasing admiration and stronger affection, the guides of our school days.

In bidding farewell to you, Classes of '88 and '89, we leave a parting charge. With you rests the reputation of the High School during the coming two years. We leave to you to preserve its good name, to carry its work forward thoroughly and successfully, and by your diligence to lighten and brighten the labors of your instructors.

Classmates:—For more than six years, we have been fellow-students, struggling with like difficulties and sharing the trials and pleasures that have surrounded our way. As we have to-night been reminded, our work in the Bloomfield High School is now over, and we must press on and make way for those who stand ready to occupy our places. The familiar scenes in which for so long we have played an important part, will be filled with other forms. New voices will echo through the well-membered rooms and others perform our tasks, while we will only be remembered among its Alumnae. As we stand here to-night, we can scarcely realize all this. Nevertheless the fact remains: We must separate, some to continue their studies in larger institutions and others to prepare themselves for positions they expect to take in life. From this class of thirteen, we sincerely hope that some will, in coming years, take their places among the great and talented of the land; but we cannot unveil the future to discover what possible fame or glory may await us. The present alone is ours and now, while we feel ourselves drawn closer by the thought of separation, let us, at this Commencement time, resolve, that although the talents of a Rose Bonheur or a Mrs. Browning may be denied us and our work be placed in some little corner, wherever we are, we will work for the good of those around us, forgetting ourselves in our labors for others.

Maim Esse Quam Videri: "I would prefer to be rather than to seem." May we hold firmly to this, for it admits of no shame and calls upon us to be true. Let us then go forward and carry our colors unsullied—white, the symbol of purity and truth, and red, symbolizing the warmth and richness of an unselfish love for the good of all.

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Gents' Shoes in a great variety of styles, at \$1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00,

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an invitation for gentlemen who have never given us the pleasure

of their patronage to call and ascertain why they should not do so.

In the first place, as price is always an important matter, we give

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All-wool Business Suits, \$8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20.

Fine Dress Suits, \$12, 15, 18, 20, 25.

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JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

Children's Knee Breeches Suits, \$2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

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Boys' and Youths' Suits, \$3.50, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10.

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no perfect fit, his measure is at once taken in our Custom Department,

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charge. Goods exchanged or money refunded for such as are not satisfactory

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Ladies' White Dressing Sacques, 63c, 75c, 98c, out at \$1.19 we offer three styles, elegantly embroidered, reduced from \$1.45.

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Ladies' Jersey Waists, Perfect Fitting Bonnets, 98c each. Fine Worsted Bretonne Vest and Back at 88c. Children's White Slips 19c, 25c, 29c, 35c, 48c, 62c.

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